According to the practice prevailing in the State, checking of legal encumberances about any immovable property was possible only after making an advance payment and hence this was done. The CBI had also made a secret investigation into this matter and concluded that there was no irregularity in the above purchase.

(g) In view of the above, does not arise.

Allocation of imported steel skull scrap from Qatar

395. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited had imported 28,000 tonnes of steel skull scrap from Qatar in hard currency without pre-shipment inspection by it or by the approved inspection agency;

(b) if so, whether the entire quantity was discriminatorily allotted to Mukand Iron and Steel without pre-registration of demand by the latter;

(c) whether the internal vigilance of MSTC indicated the deal;

(d) whether the Ministry have taken any action in the matter; and

(e) if so, what is the proposed course of action?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) During 1988-89, Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC) placed orders for the import of 68,000 tonnes of steel skull scrap from Qatar of which about 35,000 tonnes was actually shipped. Under the prevalent system pre-shipment inspection of scrap is not done by MSTC but by inspection agencies. In addition, the actual users are also free to do so. Out of the above, inspection of 21,000 tonnes was to be done by actual users and the balence by inspection agencies.

(b) Out of 35,000 tonnes of Skull Scrap actually imported, M/s. Mukand was allotted about 27,000 tonnes and the balance was allotted to eight other users. Pre-registration of any particular variety of Carbon Steel Melting Scrap is not a pre-requisite for allotment purposes but the consumers can pre-register their demand for entire requirement.

(c) to (e) The internal vigilance of MSTC had examined the matter but had not found any mala fide. However, Government are examining the matter afresh.

Alleged irregularities in the purchase of a foreign flag ship by MSTC

396. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited (MSTC) purchased a foreign flag vessel, MV Aspen Sky, over-looking specific objections by the then Chief Vigilance Officer, MSTC;

(b) if so, whether there are more than one vigilance reports containing adverse remarks against the present Managing Director of MSTC and some higher-ups, some of which are for a period when the Managing Director was General Manager of MSTC;

(c) whether the present Managing Director was involved in an irregular deal pertaining to the import of stainless steel, in 1984 when he was General Manager; and

(d) whether appointment of Managing Director, MSTC, during pendency of vigilance enquiry was counter to the Government policy and principles, more so when corruption charges were confirmed by internal vigilance of MSTC?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) MSTC purchased "MV Aspen Sky" ship for breaking after obtaining the then Chief Vigilance Officer's advice in the matter. The thrust of the advice was that MSTC's interests including direct and indirect losses and damages on such

deals, if any, may be kept in view before the purchase. The purchase was made in due consideration of this advice.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There were neither any such vigilance reports containing adverse remarks against the present Managing Director including the period when he was General Manager nor was there any vigilance investigation against him at that time.

(d) No vigilance enquiry against the Managing Director, MSTC was contemplated or was in progress at the time of his appointment as Managing Director.

Report of Abid Hussain Committee on textile policy

397. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received the report on Textile Policy Review Committee headd by Shri Abid Hussain;

(b) whether Government have studied the report submitted in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the outlines of the future action plan?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

चाय के मूल्य

398. श्री राम नरेश यादव : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत वर्ष के दौरान देश में चाय का उत्पादन कम होने के कारण चाय के मूल्यों में भारी वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार मूल्य वृद्धि को रोकने के लिये चाय के निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगाकर स्वदेशी बाजार पर नियंत्रण रखने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है।

वाणिज्य और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री अरुण कुमार नेहरू) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Suggestion of Chief Justice of India to RBI Governor regarding Bank Assistance to young professionals

399. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Justice of India has written to the Governor, RBI to set aside 2 per cent of the funds of the banks for assistance at low rates of interest to young professionals by treating them as priority sector;

(b) if so, whether Government would examine the suggestion in view of its scope for development of human resources in the country; and

(c) what is the present system of providing assistance to professionals and at what rate of interest and whether Government are satisfied with the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not received any letter from the Chief Justice of India regarding setting aside two per cent of the funds of the banks for assistance at low rates of interest to young professionals.

(c) The Commercial Banks extend loans to professionals and self-employed persons for the purpose of purchasing equipment/repairing or renovating existing equipments and/or acquiring and repairing business premises or for purchasing tools and/or for working capital requirements under the extant guidelines of Reserve Bank of India under the priority sector advances. The main features of the RBI guidelines governing the terms and conditions relating to margin, secu-